

# FCC NEWSLETTER



## FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION – A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

### FCC Annual Meeting: Celebrating Seven Years of Giving 92 Projects Funded, More Than \$500,000 for Fontbonne Programs

FCC's Seventh Annual Meeting on July 10 was a business meeting. However, the annual get-together was, as it always is, a celebration announcing the latest great awardees; a time to enjoy the company of familiar and new friends, pay tribute to friends departed, talk, laugh, relish a robust continental breakfast provided by DeDe Caspari and the Event Committee, and to reflect on the impressive accomplishments and ever-widening circumference of this woman's giving circle.

Since the first awards were granted in 2008, FCC has funded 92 projects totaling more than \$500,000. Chair Joan Falk encouraged members to invite a friend or classmate to join FCC this year in order to continue meaningful giving. "If each of us brings in a new member this year, look at the good we could accomplish!"

Awards Committee Chair Kathy Von Minden and Director of Development Events and Constituency Relations Lauren Sauer continued the group's non-traditional means of announcing grant awardees. Purple balloons bobbing above attendee's in the Caf were enthusiastically popped and the 12 grant projects totaling \$81,181 were revealed.

On the campus for only seven days, Fontbonne University's 14<sup>th</sup> President, J. Michael Pressimone spoke with members, letting us know that he was inspired by our organization.

A tradition since the founding of Fontbonne Community Connection, at the close of the Annual Meeting, members reflect on what the giving circle means to them personally; each woman expressing personal and unique thoughts, yet, at the heart, similar:

- Admiration and respect for the smart, caring and determined women in this circle.
- Receiving more than giving, learning more than educating and discovering that we are gifted from our giving.
- Joy in being together and giving together; sociability, making decisions that positively affect faculty, staff and students and have impact far beyond the Fontbonne community.



Joan Falk and DeDe Caspari



Nina Bryans, Dr. Pressimone and Toni Breihan



Mary Schenkenberg, Carol Spehr, Eileen Carr



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## A Fontbonne Family Connection: Jaimette McCulley Assistant Professor, FCC Member and Freshman Mom

By Rosemary Quigley

When classes convene in August, one new freshman will have a special connection to the FCC.

Rachel McCulley was born eighteen years ago when her mother Jaimette was a Registered Dietitian at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. When Rachael was two years old, Jaimette McCulley joined the Human Environmental Sciences faculty at Fontbonne. Today she is Assistant Professor Family and Consumer Sciences

Sixteen years later, Jaimette is an involved and enthusiastic member of the FCC, enjoying getting to know the women of FCC -- alums and friends of the giving circle. She is quick to say that being part of FCC has enabled her to experience deeper connections within the University.

When Rachel chose FBU, Jaimette was thrilled for her daughter -- for many reasons. Most especially, Fontbonne fit the criteria her daughter was looking for in a university. Fontbonne offers the courses she is interested in as she plans to double major in business and accounting with a post-graduation goal of law school. Did Mom's devotion to and respect for Fontbonne influence Rachel's decision? I guess we will have to ask Rachel that!



## FCC Members Near and Far Are Connected by Our Mission

By Sue Wallace

Fontbonne alumni are scattered throughout the United States and in many countries. The Fontbonne Community Connection has quite literally become a means for alumnae and friends to bring about change and make a difference. Most of us are within and minutes of 6800 Wydown Blvd. but a few are long-distance members.

### Judy Benevento : Bettendorf, IA

It's almost a three-hour drive from Judy Baechle Benevento's home to St. Louis so; she isn't able to attend all FCC activities. But she's an enthusiastic member who attended the July Annual Meeting, as she has in the past. "I can't make it to all the events, but I am always grateful when I can because I enjoy interacting with the smart, caring, committed women of the FCC and the Fontbonne community." She looks forward to reading the grant proposals each year and seeing projects come to fruition.

Judy is a native St. Louisan who attended Catholic schools and chose Fontbonne because of its Catholic identity, smaller size and excellent education department. She graduated in 1986 with a degree in elementary/special education and taught in St. Louis Archdiocesan schools. She met her husband Bill in St. Louis and the couple, who have been married 20 years, moved to Bettendorf for his job and have been in the Hawkeye State ever since.

Judy and Bill enjoy travelling back to St. Louis to visit family and friends. And it was on a trip back home that Kay Barnes, former



Fontbonne Vice President of Institutional Advancement, explained Fontbonne Community Connection to Judy. She was immediately captivated by the scope and diversity of the awards proposals and amazed by how a little money pooled by a group of women could make such a big impact. Her cousin, Carroll Baechle, is also an FCC member. Judy has worked in publishing and served as director of religious education. Today, she is Coordinator for Adult Education/Fair Formation in her parish.

### Lucy Hahn : Boise, ID

When Lucy Meyer Hahn makes the more than 1,600-mile trip from Boise, Idaho to visit family in St. Louis, she always tries to make time to visit the Fontbonne campus. She moved to Boise after graduation from Fontbonne in 1965, but through her FCC membership, she discovered a meaningful way to stay connected to her alma mater.

Lucy grew up in South St. Louis and attended St. Margaret of Scotland Parish. In 1961, she was awarded a scholarship to attend Fontbonne. Originally a chemistry major, she changed her major to elementary education during her sophomore year and minored in German. "Fontbonne planted the seeds for lifelong learning and I continue to enjoy nurturing that desire for new knowledge," says Lucy.

A conversation with Joan Falk, a classmate and friend currently serving as FCC President, motivated Lucy to become a member of the giving circle. Although most of her participation in FCC is long-distance, her FCC membership is a means to help make a difference in others' lives. The Fontbonne community and her theology and philosophy classes strengthened and reinforced her faith. For Lucy, FCC giving is a way to pay it forward.

A single parent, Lucy raised four daughters, got her Master's degree and taught Boise public schools until her retirement six years ago. Since then, she has continued to educate others; teaching an Idaho state math initiative to educators and also by teaching at local universities. She is very involved with her parish and serves as lector, Eucharistic minister and advocate for the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.





## Technology Resource Room Offers Hands-On Experience

A 20-foot long room in the East Building has very rapidly become a popular destination for faculty and students in the School of Education/Special Education. There is nothing fancy about its décor; it's the wonderful variety of technological tools that support a variety of up-and-coming pedagogical practices in Fontbonne's Technical Resource Room that attracts visitors.

The TRR's purpose is to build faculty and student confidence and ability in educational technology tools and applications and even in the opening months, that is being accomplished

While effective use of technology for faculty and students in the School of Education/Special Education continues to grow each year, training for SMART boards and clickers has primarily been online. It was effective; however, it wasn't hands-on. Faculty campus-wide and students in the School of Education/Special Education had little opportunity to explore new technologies in a face-to-face collaborative setting that effectively gauged technology's classroom use.

The idea for the TRR was discussed for two years and announcement the FCC grant application was impetus that moved Amy Peach, Director of Instructional Technology into action. Upon receiving the grant award, she carefully researched what was affordable and what equipment would be most useful and

opened the doors of the Technology Resource Room (TRR) in March.

The TRR is a most certainly not a demo room. It's an active space for faculty and students to learn more about how digital story creation, mobile educational applications fit into the modern world of education.

This fall looks to be a very busy time for the Technology Resource Room, which eventually will be expanded into Fontbonne's Center for Educational and Emerging Technology. Eventually, it will become a community center of educational technology, drawing area P-12 educators for hands-on workshops led by University graduate students as well as partnerships training opportunities with the Cooperating School Districts.



## A.S.K. Program Tutoring Makes Difference for Science Students

By Mary Schenkenberg

Mark Pousson, Ph.D., Director of The Kinkle Center for Academic Resources, was the catalyst behind the "Achieving Science Knowledge" (A.S.K.) grant funded by FCC last year.

When the grant was awarded, Mark advertised for a Science Tutor. Dr. Rajesh Mishra, a Ph.D. in organic chemistry was hired to tutor 15 hours a week. Raj was enthusiastic about the opportunity and, anxious to meet students, offering group and one-on-one tutoring.

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**"Students teach us how to teach them."**

Mark Pousson, Ph.D.

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The collaboration between Science Departments and Mark's office was terrific. During the year, 23 students were served, most returning at least three times. Students reported the service was definitely helpful, with Dietetic students most served. One student credited Raj's tutoring with getting her through her required Intro to Chemistry, and

she is now taking Jr. level Dietetics classes.

Mark would like the FCC to know how much he learned about tutoring programs from his work with the FCC grant. "Students teach us how to teach them," he said. "Had we had a 2nd year, I think we could have doubled the students served."

A grant submitted to the National Science Foundation and year-two funding from the University were not available for this academic year, so Mark hopes to find upper classmen or Teaching Assistants to serve as science tutors. His knowledge gained will influence the structure of the Math Boot Camp, granted funding by the FCC this year. If all goes well, Mark will reap for a NSF grant.

Some grants produce successful programs in a year. Others, like the A.S.K. Grant, prepare the soil for the growth of new programs. In reflecting, Mark says, "It was a perfect grant for the Kinkle Center, given their goals. We will continue to use our experience to find ways to tutor students who need it."



## Coming Events

### FCC 2014-2015 Events and Important Dates

#### SAVE THE DATE

**WHAT:** FCC Planning Meeting

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 21

8:30 AM to 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Strassner Campus

**WHO:** All Members

**WHY:** Participative, informative & fun planning for the next year and informal box lunch

## Message from the Chair

Dear Fellow FCC Members,

I'm still reeling from the exciting announcement of our 2014-2015 FCC Awards. Such a difference we're making together, on campus and beyond -- with this year's reach extending to Belize! Dr. Pressimone was so impressed at the Annual Meeting/Awards Breakfast on July 10 that he stayed for the entire program, saying the testimonials and reflections filled him with even more hope for Fontbonne's bright future.

I'm delighted to welcome two new FCC members -- Cathy Pressimone, wife of our University President, and Dr. Gale Rice, Fontbonne Professor and Interim Dean/College of Education and Communication Sciences and Disorders. Wonderful having you both as part of our circle!

And congratulations to Lauren Sauer, our terrific FCC Liaison with the University, who just received her MBA from Fontbonne!



*Joan*

Joan Buxton Falk  
FCC Chair 2014-2015

Officers and Committee Chairs are eager for us all to launch the coming year's activities and events. The Annual Planning Meeting, the morning of [August 21](#), is the perfect opportunity for ALL members to provide important input and become more participatory. We'll begin with a professionally conducted session on consensus building. It will be not only informative but also great fun -- and invaluable for our FCC processes, as well as in personal and business relations. Come enjoy the company of truly fabulous women, and stay for the optional box lunch (specific details coming soon). What's not to love!!!

## 2014-2015 Officers Serving Include

**Chair** - Joan Falk

**Vice Chair** - Angelia Gosney

**Recording Secretary** - Rosemary Quigley

**Corresponding Secretary** - Jan Reilly

**Treasurer** - Barb Atteln

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Awards** - Liz Glaser

**Events** - Angelia Gosney

**Membership** - Jenna Voss

**Bylaws** - Barb Atteln

**Archives & History** - Nina Bryans

**PR** - Anita Lamont

## Editor's Note-

Your FCC Newsletter Staff is seeking a talented FCC member familiar with Microsoft Publisher desktop publishing application. When copy, outlines and photos are complete, our formatting/design person would spend approximately two hours (perhaps more in the beginning) doing fairly straightforward layout and design for the four-page emailed newsletter using the Microsoft Publisher program. (We take care of text composition and proofing.) Whether you are familiar with Microsoft Publisher or not, as long as it's installed on your computer, we can teach you how to use it. It's fun and simple! For more information, please contact Lauren Sauer at [lsauer@fontbonne.edu](mailto:lsauer@fontbonne.edu). "

## Newest Members

*Please Welcome...*

— **Cathy Pressimone**

— **Gale Rice**

